

Front Page Editor Page Chief Page

STATINT

PITTSBURGH, PA.
POST-GAZETTE

14 - 253,393

JAN 23 1967

Teeth for CIA Watchdog

CPYRGHT

SENATORS seeking more critical congressional surveillance of the Central Intelligence Agency have finally gained a concession to their point of view. Chairman J. William Fulbright and two other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have now been admitted to the Senate panel that watches over the CIA.

Last year the Senate, in an extraordinary secret session, voted 61-to-28 to defeat a motion of Senator Eugene McCarthy that would have included three members of the Foreign Relations Committee in the special subcommittee that keeps tabs on the federal intelligence agency. The inclusion this year of Foreign Relations Committee members in the watchdog group does not, however, mean an unqualified victory for the objective of the McCarthy resolution. Senators Fulbright, Mansfield, and Hickenlooper will be sitting on the subcommittee, not by right but by invitation. On the chairman, Senator Richard B. Russell.

Congress, under the new arrangement, will still not be able to keep an eye on the CIA through a specially staffed monitoring body, as recommended by the Hoover Commission and other critics. Such a group, comparable to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, would help elected representatives to know that the CIA is not overstepping proper bounds in its extensive undercover international operations.

The new move to give the Foreign Relations Committee, along with the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, representation on the CIA watchdog subcommittee is, however, a step in the right direction. Senator Fulbright, and others who have wanted closer congressional supervision of the CIA will now be able to evaluate the need more knowledgeably.